

# GLOBAL CONNECT ROAD MAP

Through the Global Connect Initiative stakeholders from government, international financial institutions, industry, and civil society are coming together to bring an additional 1.5 billion people online by 2020. The initiative supports the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which lists investment in ICT as a key development priority. The April 14 Global Connect High-Level Event underscores the broad support for the idea that Internet connectivity is as important to economic development as other forms of infrastructure. On April 14, we identified the following actions that each of us can take to help us achieve our goal:

- All stakeholders should seek to identify and prioritize projects that will connect the unconnected, leading to transformative increases in lending and technical assistance with a goal to double public and private funding by 2020.
- Governments and multilateral development banks should continue to build technical expertise on digital connectivity, and all stakeholders should share best practices.
- All stakeholders should look for opportunities to integrate connectivity into hard infrastructure projects, i.e., the “dig once” policy.
- All stakeholders commit themselves to the connectivity principles of Global Connect.

There will be a number of opportunities to expand support for this initiative and to seek additional action to bring the unconnected online:

- The G-7 ICT Ministerial in Takamatsu, Japan (April 29-30)
- The World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2016 in Geneva (May 2-6)
- International Telecoms Week (ITW) Conference in Chicago, Illinois, USA (May 8-10)



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- The International Telecommunications Union Council 2016 in Geneva (May 25 – June 2)
- OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy in Cancun, Mexico (June 21-23)
- 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Palo Alto, California, USA (June 22-24)
- The 2016 G-20 Hangzhou Summit (September 4-5)
- The 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York (Sept. 13-27)
- The Broadband Commission meeting September 18, 2016, in conjunction with the UNGA
- 2016 World Economic Forum Events (Africa, May 11-13 in Kigali, Rwanda; ASEAN, June 1-2 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Latin America, June 16-17 in Medellin, Colombia)
- Fall 2016 industry-led Global Connect Stakeholders Conference: Advancing Solutions (October 7-9, 2016 in Washington, DC)

The goal is set: connect 1.5 billion more people online by 2020, and everyone has a role to play in making that a reality.



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